

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 08966 282226Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05 /057 W
-----282230Z 014536 /62

P R 282135Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2659
INFO DIA WASHDC
USCINCSO QUARRY HTZ CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8966

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MORG, PINT, EC
SUBJECT: DISMISSAL OF GENERAL SOLON ESPINOSA FROM ECUADOREAN ARMY

1. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TODAY, DEC. 28, CONFIRMED THAT BRIG.
GEN. SOLON ESPINOSA, COMMANDANT OF THE ARMY WAR ACADEMY, HAS
BEEN FORCIBLY RETIRED (DADA BE BAJA) FROM THE ECUADOREAN ARMY.

2. ESPINOSA'S DISMISSAL FOLLOWS CLOSELY UPON ARMY COMMANDANT
GENERAL DURAN'S ATTEMPT TO REMOVE ESPINOSA FROM HIS WAR
ACADEMY POSITION AND NAME HIM TO A LESS-DESIRABLE CABINET
MINISTRY. REPORTS INDICATE THAT ESPINOSA IN RESPONSE UNSUC-
CESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO GARNER SUPPORT TO REPLACE DURAN AND
PERHAPS TO BECOME CHIEF OF STATE. ESPINOSA'S FORCED RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE ARMY IS CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT HIS ATTEMPT
FAILED AND LEADS TO THE CONCLUSION THAT GENERAL DURAN HAS
SURVIVED THIS SCUFFLE WITH RELATIVELY INCREASED STRENGTH WITH-
IN THE ARMY.

3. COMMENT: IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT ESPINOSA WAS NOT MERELY
REMOVED FROM HIS POSITION AND PLACED IN "DISPONIBILIDAD,"
A SITUATION WHICH WOULD HAVE ALLOWED HIM TO REMAIN IN
THE ARMY FOR SIX MONTHS WITHOUT A SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENT AND
WHICH WOULD HAVE ALLOWED HIM TO CONTINUE POLITICKING WITHIN
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PAGE 02 QUITO 08966 282226Z

THE ARMY.
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976QUITO08966
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760474-0450
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761210/aaaaahzf.tel
Line Count: 57
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISMISSAL OF GENERAL SOLON ESPINOSA FROM ECUADOREAN ARMY
TAGS: MORG, PINT, EC, (ESPINOSA, SOLON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006